

## CADASIL – Skin Biopsy

The Department of Anatomical Pathology, ACT Pathology, at the TCH campus, offers skin biopsy for **Cerebral Autosomal Dominant Arteriopathy with Subcortical Infarcts and Leukoencephalopathy (CADASIL)** by electron microscopy.

### Clinical Indications for Testing

Clinical work up should have excluded the more common causes of stroke in younger patients before proceeding to skin biopsy for CADASIL examination.

### Request forms

Request forms **MUST** indicate that the sample is a skin biopsy for Electron Microscopy CADASIL investigation.

Identify the requesting Doctor and Doctors needing copies of the report on the request form. Complete the Medicare assignment section on the request with the patient's signature.

### Specimen Collection

A single, full depth 3mm punch biopsy of skin from the shoulder region (or upper arm), in an area without sun damage or scarring, is required for examination.

It is recommended that this procedure is performed by a medical practitioner experienced in skin sample collections.

The skin sample needs to be placed into EM Fixative **TOXIC** (2% Glutaraldehyde in 0.1M cacodylate buffer). Contact Anatomical Pathology to arrange for a vial.

*Glutaraldehyde and Cacodylate buffer are **Hazardous** substances and cannot readily be transported at short notice off the Canberra Hospital Campus.*

The sample vial must be labelled with patient name, date of birth and time of sample collection.

The sample **MUST** be sent promptly to ACT Pathology. Transport at Room Temperature 15°C to 25°C.

### Reporting

Time for final report is 2-3 weeks from receipt of sample.

### Contacts

Request for Glutaraldehyde (EM Fixative)

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